(c) With a view to, utilise inrafstruc-ture of the various unitsof.itLoptimally apWt from upgradation of technologies; improving quality to interaational standthds;' adopting various' cost reduc-tioff measures and laying stress on diver-sifying ITIs products and custormers; the Ministry has taken a policy deci-siott~trhder which 30 per cent to 35 per cent of total DOT orders are kept reserved for ITI & HTL; taken together; for those items which they manufacure. However; no any concession in respect of price; quality or supply schedule is given.

Transfer of Officers in the Dot

3504. SURI.GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a). whether Government have taken a decision to. transfer officers in the De-partment of Telecommunications who have less than, two years period to attain the age of superannuation;

(b) whether Government have reci-*ved* a *spate of requests to cancel such* transfer orders even on heath grounds;

(c) if so the details, thereof; and

(d). what action is being contemplated. to grant relief t0,such officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF, COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No such general decision has been taken, Sir.

'(b)' to (d) In view of the answer to (a) above: no comment.

Criteria for opening post offices in accessible areas:—

3505. SHRI IQBAL SINGH; Will the Minister of COMMUTATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria laid down for opening new post offices in rural areas of the country;

(b) what is the number of eligible villages in the country where post offices are yet to be opened;

(c) what was the target, fixed for opening of such post offices during 1994-95;and

(d) the sachievement made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OP THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICA-TIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The criteria laid down for opening new post offices in rural areas of the coun-try are given in the enclosed State-ment (See. below)

(b) There are 7252 eligible villages in the country where post offices are yet to; be opened.

(c) and (d) It wastargeted to open 80 extra departmental branch post offices in such villages and 4 extra departntentalubranch post off-ces have been Sanctioned against this target during 1994-95.

Criterial Norms fixed for opening new post offices in rural areas:

(i) *Population*

(a) In normal areas:~

3000 pupulation in a group *ot* vil. lages (including the propsed post office viflages)

(b) In hilly; tribal; desert and in-accessible areas:

500 population in an individual vil lage of 1000 population in a group of villages.

(ii) *Distance*

(a) In normal areas:

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 *kms.*